

5440-64 School Counselor

The holder is authorized to provide school counseling services in grades PK-12.

In order to qualify for this endorsement, the candidate shall demonstrate the following:

Knowledge Standards:

Demonstrates knowledge of school counseling concepts and skills delineated in current national professional standards¹ and personal development concepts and skills reflected in *Vermont's Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities*. Specifically, the school counselor understands:

Human Development:

Human development, including the typical progression of early childhood through adult growth and development within each domain and age appropriate indicators of social and emotional well being for each stage of development

Developmental Guidance:

Purposes and strategies for developmental guidance programs, including developmental theories, educational planning methods and processes, classroom management skills, group guidance approaches, conflict mediation and resolution strategies, and parent education strategies

Counseling:

Principles, theories, and techniques of individual, group, and family counseling, including how to modify counseling practices to accommodate students with special needs

The student as the primary client

Indicators of serious social and emotional issues related to healthy development (such as self mutilation, eating disorders, harassment, grief, trauma), including their impact on students, families, peers, schools, and community systems, and when and to whom to refer students and their families for more intensive interventions

Emergency crisis intervention services within and outside the school district

Career Exploration and Transitions to Post Secondary Education and Work:

Career development theories and practices, strategies for guiding students to explore career and lifestyle choices, and decision-making skills relative to education and work

Transition issues at various age levels

Changes in technology and the impact of these changes on learning and work

Range of college and post secondary training opportunities, and resources available to support students' choices

5440-64 School Counselor (Cont'd)

Professional Issues:

Professional and ethical issues in school counseling

Legal aspects of counseling and school law as they relate to counselors and the counselor's role within the educational system

Assessment:

Appropriate interpretation of a variety of educational and psychological assessment data

Consultation and Collaboration:

Schools as systems

Processes of social and cultural change with respect to various racial, gender and ethnic groups, and knowledge of and respect for differing cultural and lifestyle patterns, including an understanding of various forms of family relationships

How to work cooperatively and respectfully with all families to support students' learning and development

Principles and practices of effective collaboration and consultation in learning environments

Development, implementation, and evaluation of a comprehensive Pre-K to 12 program of school counseling services in collaboration with administrators, staff, parents, and other community members

The school counselor's roles and responsibilities relative to the development and implementation of educational plans for students

Purposes, elements, and requirements of the CSHP (Coordinated School Health Program)

Performance Standards:

School counselors strengthen and facilitate the educational process by providing developmental guidance instruction to enable all students to acquire the attitudes, knowledge, and skills that contribute to school success and healthy development; providing individual and/or group counseling to students in need; and collaborating with other school personnel to promote a healthy learning environment for students and staff. Specifically, the school counselor:

Developmental Guidance:

Designs, implements, and evaluates standards-based developmental guidance programs to help all students develop self understanding and personal competence, including the ability to make healthy and informed choices, to develop productive and satisfying relationships, and to resolve conflicts effectively

Counseling:

Identifies, in collaboration with teachers and parents, problems that may be interfering with the learning and healthy development of individual students and that may require counseling interventions

5440-64 School Counselor (Cont'd)

Facilitates the student's self-awareness, self-understanding, self-advocacy, and behavioral change, as they relate to school adjustment and performance

Coordinates with principal and superintendent in the development of an emergency crisis intervention plan which includes police, community, public safety, and emergency response personnel

Uses deescalation techniques with students in danger of hurting themselves and/or others

Provides short-term counseling to individuals and groups of students to assist them in dealing with personal, social, developmental, and educational issues

Career Exploration and Transitions to Post Secondary Education and Work:

Guides students in career and higher education exploration, decision-making, and planning

Assessment:

Assists students and parents to understand the results of psychological and educational assessments in order to support students in making effective personal, educational, social, and career decisions

Consultation and Collaboration:

Serves as a liaison between teachers, parents, support personnel, and community resources to facilitate successful student development

Participates on a variety of teams supporting individual students

Collaborates with school and community personnel to ensure that the school environment and program are safe and health promoting and to assist in the development, support, implementation, and evaluation of a Coordinated School Health Program (CSHP)

Works with all students and their families in ways that respect diverse backgrounds and interests

Makes referrals to other professionals, as appropriate

Additional Requirements:

Master's degree with a concentration in school counseling, or the equivalent.

A supervised internship experience (600 clock hours) in counseling with a minimum of 60 hours of experience in school counseling at **both** the elementary (PK-6) and middle/secondary (7-12) levels, under the supervision of a licensed school counselor.

¹. *National Standards for School Counseling Programs* (1996, American School Counseling Association) and *National Career Standards* (2002, National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc., and Affiliates).